Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A substantially halogen-free epoxy resin formulation suitable for coating or impregnating a substrate, said epoxy resin being an epoxy resin advanced with phosphorus and having, dispersed in said formulation, a thermal stability increasing amount of finely-divided boehmite having an average particle size in the range of about 0.1 to about 30 microns, wherein said epoxy resin advanced with phosphorus is a curable epoxy resin composition formed by partially reacting an epoxy resin with a co-reactive organophosphorus compound that contains an active hydrogen atom.

2. (Previously Presented) A formulation as in Claim 1 wherein said amount is in the range of about 10 to about 50 parts per hundred parts of epoxy resin exclusive of other components in the formulation.

3. (Previously Presented) A formulation as in Claim 1 wherein said amount is in the range of about 30 to about 50 parts per hundred parts of epoxy resin exclusive of other components in the formulation.

4. - 18. previously canceled.

19. (Previously presented) A substrate that has been impregnated or coated with a formulation as in any of Claims 1-3.

20. (Currently amended) An epoxy resin formulation suitable for coating or impregnating a substrate, said epoxy resin being an epoxy resin advanced with phosphorus and having, dispersed within the formulation, a thermal stability increasing amount of finely-divided boehmite having an average particle size in the range of about 0.1 to about 30 microns, wherein said epoxy resin advanced with phosphorus is a curable epoxy resin composition formed by partially reacting an epoxy resin with a co-reactive organophosphorus compound that contains an active hydrogen atom.

21. (Previously Presented) A formulation as in Claim 20 wherein said amount is in the range of about 10 to about 50 parts per hundred parts of epoxy resin exclusive of other components in the formulation.

22. (Previously Presented) A formulation as in Claim 20 wherein said amount is in the range of about 30 to about 50 parts per hundred parts of epoxy resin exclusive of other components in the formulation.

23. (Previously presented) A substrate that has been impregnated and/or coated with a formulation as in any of Claims 20-22.

24. (Previously presented) A formulation as in either of Claims 1 and 20, wherein the finely-divided boehmite has a specific surface (BET) in the range of 15 ± 5 m^2/g.

25. (Previously presented) A formulation as in either of Claims 1 and 20, wherein the finely-divided boehmite has a bulk density in the range of 700 ± 100 kg/m^3.

26. (Previously presented) A formulation as in either of Claims 1 and 20, wherein the finely-divided boehmite has a particle size d_{50} in the range of 1 ± 0.2 μm.

27. (Previously presented) A formulation as in either of Claims 1 and 20, wherein the finely-divided boehmite has a particle size d_{100} in the range of 10 ± 2 μm.

28. (Previously presented) A formulation as in either of Claims 1 and 20, wherein the finely-divided boehmite has a specific surface (BET) in the range of 15 ± 5 m^2/g, a bulk density in the range of 700 ± 100 kg/m^3, a particle size d_{50} in the range of 1 ± 0.2 μm, and a particle size d_{100} in the range of 10 ± 2 μm.

29. (Currently amended) A method of increasing the thermal stability of an epoxy resin formulation advanced with phosphorus and suitable for coating or impregnating a substrate, the method comprising dispersing in the formulation a thermal stability increasing amount of finely-divided boehmite having an average particle size in the range of about 0.1 to about 30 microns,

wherein said epoxy resin advanced with phosphorus is a curable epoxy resin composition formed by partially reacting an epoxy resin with a co-reactive organophosphorus compound that contains an active hydrogen atom.

30. (Currently amended) An epoxy resin formulation suitable for coating or impregnating a substrate, said epoxy resin being an epoxy resin advanced with phosphorus and having, dispersed in said formulation, a thermal stability increasing amount of finely-divided boehmite which is non-fibrous, wherein said epoxy resin advanced with phosphorus is a curable epoxy resin composition formed by partially reacting an epoxy resin with a co-reactive organophosphorus compound that contains an active hydrogen atom.

31. (Previously Presented) A formulation as in Claim 30, wherein the finely-divided boehmite has an average particle size in the range of about 0.1 to about 30 microns, a specific surface (BET) in the range of 15 ± 5 m^2/g, a bulk density in the range of 700 ± 100 kg/m^3, a particle size d_{50} in the range of 1 ± 0.2 μm, and a particle size d_{100} in the range of 10 ± 2 μm.